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October 4, 2016

Celebrating a Trailblazer



Dear Friends,

I was a young state legislator when I first met Melvoid J. Benson, and I had no idea at the time that my life and my career in public service would be forever changed. An African American woman in a white, male-dominated chamber, Mel was a trailblazer. She was a teacher, first and foremost, but she felt called to action to further serve her community. She represented North Kingstown as a State Representative, and later served on the North Kingstown School Committee, and in both roles, she put her constituents first. Mel Benson was, quite simply, a force to be reckoned with. She was bold and funny and brave and smart, and she commanded a room like no one else.

When I introduced the bill to [name the North Kingstown Post Office after Mel](#), I imagined her by my side for the dedication. I thought about the stories she would tell and the laughs she would get, and how she would react to all the attention.

But less than 48 hours before President Obama signed the bill into

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Save The Date

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Due October 28

Open to citizens aged 17-23

Must be residents of 2nd Congressional District

Did You Know...?

PASSPORT TIPS

Many countries require that tourists have at least six months left on their passport past the time of their trip. Go to [Travel.State.gov](#) if you plan to travel internationally. >>

FAST FACT

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a time when consumers should take action to stay safe online and policymakers should work toward strengthening our nation's cyber defenses. >>

In Other News

law, Mel left us too soon.

Still, her presence was strongly felt as we dedicated the Melvoid J. Benson Post Office. Everyone had a Mel story to share, and while I missed her more than ever, it was a joyous occasion to hear family, friends, and colleagues speak of her indelible spirit. Speaker after speaker painted a portrait of a fearless leader and compassionate public servant; a woman who dedicated her life to helping others.

Naming the post office was a way for me to thank Mel for her service and her friendship. At the State House, on the School Committee, in the classroom, and in our community, Mel fought hard every day for what was right. To her, that's just what you did. If you have the chance to make a difference, it's your responsibility to do so. Mel taught me that lesson and so many others, and her legacy will never be forgotten.

Stay updated on events like the dedication and all of my policy work through on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#).

Sincerely,

Jim Langevin



Preparing the Workforce

I'm thrilled to announce that the U.S. House last month passed the [Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act](#), a bill I championed along with my Congressional Career and Technical Education Caucus Co-Chair, Congressman Glenn 'GT' Thompson (R-PA). This bill [better connects classrooms with workforce trends](#) and [encourages strong partnerships](#) between educators, employers, and community partners, ensuring opportunities for underserved students, in particular.



WIND in our Sails

Clean energy is the future, without question, and we need to clear as many hurdles as possible to ensure that we are investing and innovating in cleaner, more efficient and more sustainable energy solutions. [This is why I introduced my Offshore WIND Act](#), a House companion to Senator Whitehouse's effort to extend the Investment Tax Credit so that offshore wind

MEMORIES CHERISHED

At the unveiling of a refurbished Rocky Point arch, Rep. Langevin called the park a treasure for Warwick and recalled his own childhood memories there. >>

CYBER HEAD

Rep. Langevin praised the appointment of Brigadier General Gregory Touhill as the first-ever federal Chief Information Security Officer. >>

ONLINE VOTING

A former Secretary of State and now a national leader on cybersecurity, Rep. Langevin weighed in on the pitfalls of potential online voting. >>

SALUTE TO O'DONNELL

Rep. Langevin thanked retiring Colonel Steven O'Donnell of the Rhode Island State Police for his many years of service in public safety. >>

SPREADING CTE

Along with his CTE Caucus Co-chair, Rep. Langevin penned an op-ed touting the benefits of a hands-on technical education. >>

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

At a roundtable discussion, Rep. Langevin called for campaign finance reform that increases transparency and accountability in elections. >>

REMEMBERING HENRY

Rep. Langevin joined the chorus of condolences and gratitude expressed after the passing of longtime advocate for the poor, Henry Shelton. >>

projects can stay competitive and viable.

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